

## School Enrollment by Level of School for the Population 3 Years and Over

This category includes School enrollment by level of school for the population 3 years and over and includes these categories:

- Total Population persons age 3 years and over
- Total enrollment in school
- Total Enrolled in nursery school, preschool
- Total Enrolled in school in kindergarten
- Total enrolled in school in grade 1 to grade 4
- Total enrolled in school in grade 5 to grade 8
- Total enrolled in school in grade 9 to grade 12
- Total enrolled in school in college, undergraduate years
- Total enrolled in school Graduate of professional school
- Total Not enrolled in school

[Data](#) show that the number of persons enrolled in school grew by 3%, (about 235,000) in the region. This figure, remarkably, includes a decrease of 93,000 persons in Cook County. Will County had the greatest number increase of enrolled persons (51,000) and Kendall County had the greatest percentage increase (139%).

From a regional perspective, enrollment for the four youngest grade ranges declined, including 1) nursery school, preschool, 2) kindergarten, 3) grades 1-4, and 4) grade 5 – 8. Decreases in enrollment in Cook County skewed results downward. For example, Cook County was the only county to lose enrollment for grades 5 – 8, but this negative number (more than -36,000 students) overshadowed gains in the remaining six counties.

CMAP regional figures indicate enrollment growth for Grades 9 – 12 (up 9%, more than 41,000 students), for Undergraduate college (up 15%, more than 57,000 students), and for Graduate/professional school (up 19%, almost 23,000 students).

## GOTO2040 references to School Enrollment

There are significant opportunities to accommodate future growth by reinvesting within the border of our municipalities. The viability of development in these places can be increased by . . . locating schools and other public building in areas where redevelopment is sought. (p. 38.)

A strong higher education system is a common theme in maintaining the region as a global economic center. (p. 39.)

A major challenge to our future is inequitable access to the region's assets, such as good schools. To achieve our Regional Vision, GOTO 2040 seeks to improve the quality of education in the region by eliminating gaps and increasing collaboration across early childhood, K-12, and higher education systems. (p. 48)

GOTO2040 recommends that the region's education and workforce development systems be improved to create a high quality labor force for our future (p. 165)

Participants in CMAP's GOTO2040 "Invent the Future" workshops . . . consistently discussed the need for a strong economy that provides good jobs for all residents, and they emphasized the need for better educational opportunities to reach this goal. (p.166)

GOTO2040 recognizes that improving education and workforce development systems is absolutely necessary for our region's future, and this is a high priority of the plan. The plan's recommendations primarily approach education and workforce development from an economic perspective, and there its focus is improving the quality of the region's labor force. GOTO2040 recommends improvements in coordination between education, workforce, and economic development. (p. 172)

Counties can play a role in education and workforce development by facilitating collaborations between community colleges and workforce investment boards as there is untapped potential within the community college system to support workforce development and to fill gaps between worker skills and employer needs. (p. 369).

What does the indicator suggest? Is the region on a path toward or away from making GOTO2040 a reality?

The data for school enrollment shows that the number of students throughout the region is growing in a positive direction. As population expands there will be opportunities for new facilities and programs to be developed. GOTO2040 provides guidance and recommendation on how the education system can be improved.

Increases in college undergraduate and Graduate/professional schools are particularly encouraging. Persons are enrolled at this level because of their desire to advance their education and learn skills that employers need. Because of their ages, students at this level are also closer to looking for and getting employment.